

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 SAM-01 OES-06

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /095 W
----- 072805

O 300650Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9794

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7882

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG PFOR CH KS US

SUBJ: DRILLING PROPOSED IN GULF OFFSHORE CONCESSION

REF: SEOUL 3637

1. WILLIAM BUHLIG, ACTING GULF RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE, CALLED THE ECON COUNSELOR TODAY TO SAY THAT GULF HAD GONE TO BUREAU OF MINES DIRECTOR KUM TO STATE A) IT WAS STILL WILLING PER REF-TEL TO CEDE BLOCK IV IF THE ROKG HAD A DRILLER, BUT B) IT HAD A EUROPEAN FIRM (UNSPECIFIED) WHICH WAS VERY INTERESTED IN DRILLING ASAP. GULF DID NOT WANT TO PROCEED IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS, HOWEVER, IF THE ROKG HAD ANOTHER PREFERRED CANDIDATE.

2. BUHLIG REPORTED KUM REPLIED THAT THEY DID HAVE ANOTHER CANDIDATE (UNSPECIFIED) WITH WHOM THEY PLANNED TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS NEXT WEEK. KUM THEN ASKED FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE GULF FIRM SO THAT THE ROKG COULD COMPARE THEIR OFFER.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, BUHLIG STATED THAT IT WOULD CEDE ITS BLOCK TO THE EUROPEAN FIRM, PRESUMABLY FOR A CONSIDERATION WHICH WOULD COVER SOME OF GULF'S PAST EXPENSES. HE WAS NOT
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CLEAR AS TO WHETHER GULF WOULD BENEFIT ADDITIONALLY IF OIL

WERE FOUND. THE FIRM WOULD START DRILLING AND WOULD FINISH
BEFORE APRIL 1977 WHEN GULF'S CONCESSION EXPIRES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 30 SEP 1976
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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To: STATE
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